

RESOLUTION NO. 690-2009

SUPPORT FOR I-JOBS GRANT

WHEREAS, the State of Iowa has established an I-JOBS grant program for flood mitigation and infrastructure improvement; and

WHEREAS, Wapello County has developed a grant application which would, in addition to other funds to which the County has access, pay for a new Des Moines River bridge at Chilicothe containing aspects of flood mitigation and pay for paving and providing flood mitigation to four miles of gravel on Rock Bluff Road; and

WHEREAS, this proposed new bridge would be elevated over the existing Burlington tracks making for a much safer route; and

WHEREAS, the new pavement on Rock Bluff Road would create a totally hard surface access to the main retail area of Ottumwa; NOW

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Wapello County Board of Supervisors does endorse and support this grant application and urges the Iowa Finance Authority to fully fund the request of Wapello County.

The above and foregoing resolution was adopted by the Wapello County Board of Supervisors on August 3, 2009, the vote thereon being as follows:

"AYE" Siigel
"AYE" Kennig
"AYE" Parker

"NAY" _____
"NAY" _____
"NAY" _____

Steve Siigel Chair
Josephine Kennig Vice-Chair
Jerry Parker Supervisor

ATTEST: Kelly Spurgeon
Wapello County Auditor Kelly Spurgeon ly pa



July 31, 2009

Mr. Steve Siegel, Chair
Wapello County Board of Supervisors
215 N. Court Street
Ottumwa, IA 52501

Re: Support for I-Jobs Application

Dear Mr. Siegel:

I have been made aware of the plan for Wapello County to apply for I-Jobs grant funds to assist the County in the replacement of several items. On behalf of the City of Ottumwa Council, Mayor, and administrative staff, I offer the following comments in support of Wapello County's grant application.

First, I was on the Chilicothe bridge yesterday and observed it is not safe for emergency vehicles like fire trucks to cross over it. Alliant Energy has a major power plant that supplies most of Wapello County's electricity just a short distance past the bridge. There are fires that occur periodically at that coal burning electric generating plant that require heavy fire trucks to cross the bridge. The fire trucks also need to cross a set of railroad tracks located right next to the bridge. Construction of a replacement bridge that would include a passage over the railroad tracks will make it possible for timely emergency help to get to the Alliant Energy plant and keep power available to our county's industry, business, and residents. Replacement of the Chilicothe bridge would also help to create and retain employment at the Alliant Energy plant in Chilicothe, the Cargill Corn milling operation in Eddyville (which has 600 employees currently), and the Ottumwa retail community that is heavily dependent on customers from the surrounding areas.

Second, Rock Bluff Road is a major point of access to the City of Ottumwa from the west. There have been many times over the past years that I have observed washed out sections of this road due to low elevations. Wapello County is looking to raise the low spots which would allow emergency vehicles to transport residents in a timely manner to the Ottumwa Regional Hospital, which is located on the east side of the city. Paving of the road would also enable commuters to get to work ten minutes faster and would make it easier for customers to access the Quincy Place Mall. The paved street would also help create and retain employment in the Quincy Place Mall and surrounding commercial area of Ottumwa.

The funding of these projects with I-Jobs grant funds is critical to providing the above improvements that would not happen at this time without grant assistance. These improvements would certainly help increase and retain jobs.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Joe Helfenberger". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Joe" being more prominent.

Joe Helfenberger
City of Ottumwa Administrator



July 29, 2009

Wapello County Board of Supervisors
215 N. Court St.
Ottumwa, IA 52501

Dear Sirs or Madams:

This letter is being written in support of the Wapello County Board of Supervisors' application for an I-Jobs grant to fund the much needed replacement and extension of the Chillicothe Bridge, which crosses the Des Moines River. This project, when completed, will allow an intersection with the BNSF railroad tracks.

This much needed grant would also make possible the paving of four miles of Rock Bluff Road which is in great need of repair.

When completed this significant improvement will greatly impact the flow of travel to Ottumwa's two main shopping areas, Quincy Place Mall and Quincy plaza, where approximately 50 businesses are located in a two square mile area. This improvement will also be a key project enabling residents' options to have access to southbound U.S. 63, when the Des Moines River rises. This project completion with funding from I-jobs will also result in the creation and retention of employment at the Ottumwa Generating Station at Chillicothe, at the Iowa Bio-Processing Campus at Eddyville and in Ottumwa's main retail area.

In addition to making needed repairs, this grant would provide improvements to an area in need and thus improve the overall ability of Wapello County to attract retail and small businesses and manufacturers to our area. It also provides an improvement to the quality of life which always attract quality employees and new residents to the area.

Please consider strongly the awarding of an I-Jobs grant to Wapello County for this project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Terry McNitt". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Terry" and last name "McNitt" clearly distinguishable.

Terry McNitt
Executive Director, Ottumwa Area Chamber of Commerce

Quincy Place

1110 N Quincy Avenue
Ottumwa, IA 52501
Mall Office

To Whom It May Concern:

This letter is to convey my support of the I-JOBS grant request from Wapello County. As a primary retail industry location in Ottumwa, this grant would make it possible for Wapello County to pave the remaining four miles of unpaved Rock Bluff Road which would permit traffic coming south on US 63 to gain a shorter and more direct route to not only the Quincy Place Mall, but also to the many other retail industries within the area. This particular road could also gain improvement from elevation in the low lying areas, permitting the road to stay open during rising river levels on the Des Moines River. These improvements could greatly benefit the south side of Ottumwa's restaurants, retailers, and more, thus aiding in retaining employment and overall enhancing the Ottumwa, Iowa community.

Thank you for your time and consideration for this opportunity to improve an outstanding community in Southeastern Iowa.

Sincerely,



Staci Shettler
Mall Manager
Quincy Place Mall
1110 N Quincy Ave
Ottumwa, IA 52501
P: 641-682-4313
F: 641-684-6137
Email: sshettler@ddr.com



July 29, 2009

Wapello County Board of Supervisors
215 N. Court St.
Ottumwa, IA 52501

Dear Sirs:

This letter is being written in support of the Wapello County Board of Supervisors' application for an I-Jobs grant.


Among the many benefits emanating from such a grant to Wapello County would be the ability to fund the replacement and extension of the Chillicothe bridge, which crosses the Des Moines River, to allow an intersection with the BNSF railroad tracks.

The grant would also allow the funding for the paving of four miles of Rock Bluff Road, thus facilitating travel to Ottumwa's main shopping area, the Quincy Place Mall, for individuals utilizing southbound U.S. 63, when the Des Moines River rises.

Another result would be the creation and retention of employment at the Ottumwa Generating Station at Chillicothe, at the Iowa Bio-Processing Campus at Eddyville and, in general, in Ottumwa's retail sector.

Finally, the awarding of an I-Jobs grant to Wapello County would greatly enhance the county's attractiveness as a potential location for new and expanding companies.

Sincerely,



Roger D. Jones
Executive Director